Laparoscopy in developing countries

Dr Pierre Meyer
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research
Senior lecturer, Geneva University
General Surgeon
Aim

- Improvement of laparoscopic surgery in developing countries
  - University Hospital
  - District Hospital
  - Mobile surgical units
Objectives

- Conduct and evaluation of training programmes in laparoscopy
- Assessment of research needs and conduct of research programmes
Laparoscopy vs laparotomy

similar effectiveness, but:

• Less infectious complications
• Minimal tissue trauma
• Could be performed outside the operating theatre
• Faster recovery
• Shorter hospital stay
Problems

- Surgeon’s skills
- Costs and maintenance of equipment
- General anaesthesia required
- Availability of electricity and CO2
Activities – first steps

Development of:

• A manual of basic laparoscopic surgery
• An international network of surgeons
Manual for laparoscopic surgery

- Indications for laparoscopic interventions
- Basic principles of the intervention
- Basic minimum material required
- Commentaries of local specialists

*Validation of the manual after implementation*
Manual for laparoscopic surgery - objectives

- Practical and hands-on guidelines
- Guidelines for training and identification of research needs
- Covering all fields of surgery
Manual for laparoscopic surgery - activities

- Identification of collaborating centres
- Manual in electronic format
- French translation
- Development of e-learning programme and research
Manual for laparoscopic surgery - accreditation

- Establishment of an editorial board and preparation of specific chapters
- Consensus meeting
Identification of collaborating centres

- Already practising laparoscopy
- Involved in national training programmes
- Needs assessment
- Contributors
DISCUSSION